



Echocardiogram using Intravenous (IV) Image Enhancing Agent

What is an Echocardiogram?

An Echocardiogram (ECHO) is a test that uses sound waves to create pictures or video of the inside of the heart as it beats. During the test, electrodes are placed on your chest to show the heart rhythm. Next, a hand-held ultrasound probe covered with gel is placed on your chest and pictures are taken. If echo images are suboptimal, the decision to use an Imaging Enhancing Agent may be made.

What is Image Enhancing Agent?

Image Enhancing Agent (sometimes referred to as Contrast) is an IV agent that is used to make the chambers of the heart bright so that they can be optimally visualized.

Why is Contrast Used?

DEFINITY® (Perflutren Injectable Suspension) is indicated for imaging of cardiac structures and function in patients with suboptimal echo images. Without this agent, interpreting the images and obtaining a certain diagnosis may not be possible due to poor quality.

Who Will do the Test?

A Cardiac Sonographer will be performing the ECHO with the help of a Nurse and or a Physician.

What Happens During the Test?

The Sonographer will take a look at your heart and decide if your images are optimal or suboptimal. If your images are suboptimal, and the indication of the study warrants it, you will be asked to consent to the use of an Image Enhancing Agent (Contrast).

An IV will be inserted.

The Sonographer will take images of your heart using the ECHO ultrasound, while a Nurse or Physician injects the agent.

The injection and ECHO last only a few minutes.

You will be monitored during the injection and for 30 minutes post, for any adverse effects or allergies (which are very rare).

Once the test and monitoring are complete, the IV will be removed and you will be discharged.

An Echocardiologist will interpret your ECHO images and send the report to your ordering physician. Typically your ordering physician will have the results within a few days